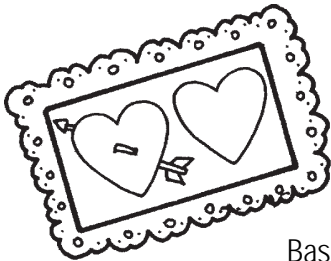


Inside SDH

Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers • Tucson, AZ • February 2007



VALENTINE EXCHANGE

by Laura C.

The Valentine exchange will be held on Tuesday, February 13 at park after announcements. Bring your decorated boxes or bags to collect valentines in and bring homemade or store bought cards to pass out. Please bring cards for everyone. If you have something special for friends save the exchange for another time, as to avoid hurt feelings.

Based on numbers the past couple of years I recommend bringing 100 valentines.

VALENTINE PARTY FOR 8-10 YEAR OLD GIRLS

by Sybelle V. and Bibiana V.

We hope girls, ages 8 through 10 (and their moms) will join us for a Valentine party at our house in Benson. New to the group, or you've known us forever, we invite you all. We will be meeting Monday, February 12, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and will have a potluck lunch. Please bring food appropriate for the theme and be dressed in red, white or pink. RSVP by February 8 by phone or email or tell us at park. If you want to carpool, ask me who else is coming and you can set something up. Our house is about an hour from anywhere in Tucson. Of course if you have to bring other children, you can.

UApresents

by Alica M.

The next UApresents show is **Preservation Hall Jazz Band** on Friday, February 16. We will meet in front of Centennial Hall at 10:00 a.m. We are seated as a group so please be on time. Also, I have the refund money from the Momix show for those you who were not able to get tickets to it but paid for them. Any question please contact me.



LADIES' LUNCH

by Celeste W.

Our next ladies' lunch will be on Saturday, February 17 at noon at the Tohono Chul Tea Room, 7366 N. Paseo del Norte <http://www.tohonochulpark.org/tea2.html>. Map help: <http://www.mapquest.com>. Please RSVP to me by the evening of the 16th so I know I will have someone to meet there. If none reserves, I will not be there.

ART CLUB by Laura C.

Art Club will be finishing up Batik projects and Sybelle V. will be teaching us how to make Art Trading Cards. We will start at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 22 and will have homemade pizza around noon. The Art Club is held at my house. Please RSVP if you are planning to attend so we have enough food and supplies.

ART AND TALENT SHOW by Laura C.

Thank you all who participated in the Art and Talent Show. We have some very creative and talented children in our group. Thank you for sharing your wonderful talents. The art will be on display in the Main Library children's showcase through the end of February.

PIMA COUNTY FAIR

by Theresa W.

If you are wanting to enter arts and crafts at the Pima County Fair you can contact me or go to http://www.pimacountyfair.com/Pima%20County%20Fair/2007/2007_fair.htm to get the forms. When you get to the fair page the button on the top of the page that says "premium book/entries" is the one you want. I will need all forms and entry fees by March 15.

Our receiving day will be Thursday, April 12 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. This is when you bring your entries to the fair and set them up (except for food entries).

I will have an informational meeting at park on Tuesday, February 27 after announcements. If you have any questions please contact me. I would love to see SDH all over Old Pueblo Hall!

SHARING TIME ON EATING VEGETARIAN OR VEGAN

by Sybelle V. and Lori O.

On Tuesday, February 27 at noon at the park there will be a time to get together and share questions and answers related to vegetarian/vegan diets. Questions will probably come from the curious and the beginners. Answers hopefully will come from those in our group who already eat this way. Bring either your questions, or several copies of your favorite vegetarian recipe to share. Also, if you have some good book recommendations, bring those as well. If there is interest in continued discussion, we can create a yahoo discussion group for asking questions and sharing experiences or recipes. Anyone who is interested is invited to participate.

SCIENCE FAIR – DATE CHANGE! March 3

by Donna J.

The Pima County Home Educators Science Fair is set for Saturday, March 3 at the Kirk-Bear Canyon Library Branch, 8959 E Tanque Verde Rd. Please note the date change. (We were unable to find a meeting room for the last Saturday in February and that date also conflicted with the HENA Conference.)

Students participating in the fair must sign in and set up their project exhibits from 1:00 to 1:30 p.m. Judging and interviews will begin at 1:30. (Interviews are optional.) All SDH members are welcome to tour the fair exhibits from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. (Only the judges and participating students will be allowed in the exhibit room from 1:00 to 2:30.) Please support our students by visiting the fair. We're expecting a lot of great projects and we'll have a speaker again this year.

There is still plenty of time to develop a project. A fair guidebook is available and it can be emailed to you. In it you will find science fair basics, including tips on how to come up with a great idea, and information on how to prepare your science project for exhibit. To participate in the fair, pre-registration is required. If your child is thinking of exhibiting a project, please contact me at homeschoolsciencefair@yahoo.com so I can place your name on our mailing list and send updates and registration materials to you. I will be sending out registration forms and a more detailed agenda to those already on the fair's mailing list this coming week.

Why participate in the science fair? The Pima County Home Educators Science Fair is an opportunity for K-12 students to share their science research and study projects with the community and other homeschoolers. And it's fun!

Participants in the home educators fair may compete individually or in groups and there's a category for family projects. You may enter the fair with one of the following types of projects: a science experiment, a science demonstration, a research project, a collection, or a science apparatus. Our fair guidelines are aimed at including the scientific endeavors of all our students, rather than being so stringent as to exclude some from participating. So whether your child has a great rock collection, or is developing an experiment to answer a scientific question, or working on some other creative scientific project, join in the fun. All young scientists exhibiting at the fair will receive participation certificates and project ribbons.





COMPUTER GAME DESIGN COURSE

by Sam G.

I am a homeschooled teenager from Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers, and I am starting an introductory game design class for eight- to 12-year-olds. The class will be centered around a program called Multimedia Fusion 2, which was made by Clickteam (<http://www.clickteam.com>)

I will hold as many of these classes as I can depending on the interest, but I am offering one class initially. My current limit for this class is five students because this will give the students as much attention as they will need, and each student will have a computer to use at my house. This first class will meet twice a week (Mondays and Wednesdays 11:00 a.m. to noon) at my house, which is west of the Grant and Silverbell intersection.

The schedule for the eight-week, 16-hour introduction class is as follows: The last week of February (the 26th and 28th), all of March (5th and 7th, 12th and 14th, 19th and 21st, 26th and 28th), and the first, second and third weeks of April (2nd and 4th, 9th and 11th, 16th and 18th)

I have been using the "Click" product line for over 10 years, and I have been an active moderator and technical support expert in the Clickteam support forums for over five years. I am also a professional artist and hobbyist musician, so the students will learn programming concepts, plus how to create sound, music, animations and graphics. We will be creating multiple 2D games (Bat and Ball games, Puzzle games, and Platform games, as well as smaller projects) over the eight weeks. I am hoping to eventually continue this course for these students to the point where they will be entering online Click-community competitions either by themselves or as a group or team.

I will charge \$25 a week per student, and will require a \$50 registration fee per student (100% refundable before March 19th). This fee will provide a demo version of Multimedia Fusion 2 to each student to use on his or her own during the course, and snacks and juice will be served after each class. In addition, a CD will be given to each student that will include what he or she created during the course (programming files, games, sounds, music, and graphics and animations). And finally, the full version of Multimedia Fusion 2 will be given to each student at the completion of the course. This edition of Multimedia Fusion 2 will contain a comprehensive graphics, animation, sound and music library that has expanded over the years to give anybody the ability to make games as efficiently as possible. Clickteam will also provide a free, private technical support forum specifically for this class. If there are any questions about this class, please contact me.

ARIZONA OPERA

by Donna J.

Don't miss this season's last Arizona Opera student dress rehearsal, **Beauty and the Beast**, set for Thursday, March 1, 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$4 for students and \$10 for adults. To sign up, mail your order and a check to cover the cost of your tickets to me by February 13. The dress rehearsal will be held at the Tucson Convention Center Music Hall. We will meet in front of the box office at 6:30 p.m. Please remember there is absolutely no late seating.

For more information about the opera and for study guides, go to Arizona Opera's web site: <http://www.azopera.com/learn.php?subcat=programsyouth&subpage=studyguides>

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

by Donna J.

Planning to participate in National History Day? Then don't forget these important dates:

- February 14, 2007 - Last postmark date for regional entries
- February 16, 2007 - Last day to hand deliver entries to the state archives office in Phoenix
- March 10, 2007 - Tucson Regional Competition

"Triumph & Tragedy in History" is this year's theme. Students in grades four and five participate by creating and presenting posters. In grades 6-12, students may choose to compete in one of five categories: documentaries, exhibits, historical papers, performances, or web sites. If you would like information about the competition, please call or email me.

Information is also available at: <http://www.nhdarizona.org> and <http://www.nationalhistoryday.org>



2007 TUCSON GEM AND MINERAL SHOW™

by Eileen D.

Due to changes this year which I was not notified of by the TGMS School Visits organizer, we will not be participating in any organized "School Visits" activities at the Gem and Mineral Show. If your children will be in 3rd through 5th grades next year and you are interested in a "School Visits" trip for 2008, please email me and I will get you the information for next year.



If you want to go to the main exhibit show at the Tucson Convention Center (TCC) this year, you can find information at <http://www.tgms.org/showinfo.htm>

"Australia—Minerals from Down Under" February 8-11

Thursday, Friday, Saturday; 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Sunday; 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Tickets are available at the door of the TCC (Ticket Office 520-321-1000) and all TCC outlets. Admission is \$6.25 plus a \$0.75 Tucson Convention Center ticket tax. Children 14 years and under are free with a paying adult. Saturday, February 10 is "Military Appreciation Day."

If you purchase tickets for the TCC on Friday, February 9 (last year I think it was either 1:00 or 2:00 p.m.) the UA students have an educational exhibit in the arena area and they hand out free minerals for the kids to take home. They also have a scavenger hunt and sometimes posters or other stuff to give away.

Also, if you go in the Granada Street entrance through the lobby to the Galleria, there are several educational exhibits that you can visit without paid admission and they usually have small giveaways for the kids.

There are other shows that are going on during the main show at locations all over Tucson. Many are free and open to the public: <http://www.visittucson.org/static/index.cfm?contentID=269&Reset=0>

There is also the online guide which lists individual exhibitors and has some good maps of each exhibit location: http://www.tucsongemshowguide.com/shows_select1.asp?data=All+Shows

There are also lectures and seminars at the TCC, most of which are free and open to the public: <http://www.tgms.org/07lectures.pdf>

The Arizona Daily Star also has an overview: <http://www.azstarnet.com/allheadlines/166372.php>

STATEWIDE HOME EDUCATION CONFERENCE

submitted by Debbie G.

The statewide HENA Conference 2007 is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, February 24 and 25, at Arizona State University's Tempe campus.

Bring the whole family to the HENA 2007 Conference! Conference organizers recommend that you attend with a friend, spouse, grandparent, or sitter to so that children can explore the kids' events and workshops while you attend panels, listen to speakers and wander the vendor exhibitor area.

Scheduled speakers include Deborah Stevenson of NHELD (National Home Education Legal Defense), Mary Griffith, author of "The Homeschooling Handbook," and Kim Fields, program coordinator for the Pima County School Superintendent's office (as part of her job, Ms. Fields works with homeschooling families, and assists with academic competitions like National History Day, the National Geographic Society Geography Bee, and National History Day).

Conference registration fees are \$20.00 HENA members/\$30.00 non-members, with payment postmarked by February 15. At the door, registration is \$25.00 members/\$35.00 non-members. Registration for children and teens is \$10.00 HENA members/\$15.00 non-members at all times, and children under 3 are free.

Visit <http://www.hena.us> for complete information about the conference, including on-line registration.



FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE

The library book sale will be held February 2 to 21 at the Friends' facility, 2230 Country Club. Prices start at five books for a \$1, and most are under \$5. There are some gift quality books under \$10, and a special group above \$10 in the Collector's Corner room. You can also donate books and volunteer to help. The schedule and all the details can be found at <http://www.lib.ci.tucson.az.us/about/news/?id=179>

GAME DAY CANCELLED

by Sybelle V.

I am sorry, but I have to cancel the game day I organized for February 9. I am trying to find a different day that might work for us, but the calendar is very full. This does not mean someone else could not organize it, but if I do, I need to be sure I can make it!

MOCK OLYMPICS CANCELLED

by Kim B.

I will not be able to run the Mock Olympics this March as was scheduled at the last parent's meeting. My schedule has changed. If anyone is willing to take it over please contact me and I will let you know what we did last year and also give you some pointers. Sorry!

PARK DAY - Every Tuesday

SDH members meet at Fort Lowell Park (Glenn and Craycroft) every Tuesday starting a 10:30 a.m. Announcements are held at 11:00 a.m.

NORTHWEST PARK DAY - Thursdays

We meet on Thursdays at Richardson Park between Orange Grove and Ina on Cmo. De la Tierra from 10:00 to about noon. If the weather is too uncomfortable, you can find us at the Nanini Library just off Shannon.

EASTSIDE PARK DAY - Mondays and Wednesdays

We meet on Mondays and Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. at Purple Heart Park in Rita Ranch, also referred to as Rita Ranch Park, on E. Rita Road off Houghton. Look for us at the purple play structure at the far west end of the park.

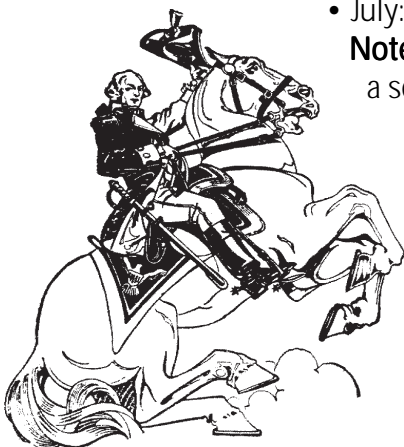
SDH MONTHLY PARENT OPPORTUNITIES

Parents' Book Discussion Group - February 15

Held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Something Sweet, 5319 E. Speedway. (NW corner of Speedway and Beverly east of Craycroft).

- February's book is *Think: Why Crucial Decisions Can't Be Made in the Blink of an Eye* by M. LeGault
- March: *The Light of Day* by Jamie Saul
- April: *Zero: The Biography of a Dangerous Idea* by Charles Seife
- May: *Straight Man* by Richard Russo
- June: *The Tipping Point* by Malcolm Gladwell
- July: *Freakanomics* by Steven Levitt

Note: Some of the above books may have a waiting list at the library. If you plan to get a selection from the library, you may want to look into putting an early hold on it.



Moms' Coffee Night - February 28

Held on the last Wednesday of every month at Something Sweet, 5319 E. Speedway (NW corner of Speedway and Beverly east of Craycroft) from 7:30 p.m. to midnight (or any time in between)

Dads' Coffee Night - February 7

Held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Borders on Oracle.